

Message Text

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SUBJECT: STATEMENT BY IRISH MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS
IN IRISH TIMES, JULY 12, 1978.

FOLLOWING STATEMENT APPEARED IN THE IRISH TIMES, JULY 12,
1978 UNDER THE HEADING "STATEMENT BY O'KENNEDY ON TRIAL".

THE TRIALS OF SCHARANSKY AND GINSBURG COULD ADVERSELY
AFFECT WORLD PUBLIC OPINION FOR DETENTE, THE MINISTER FOR
FOREIGN AFFAIRS, MR. O'KENNEDY SAID IN A STATEMENT LAST
NIGHT. HE EXPRESSED CONCERN ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT
AND THE IRISH PEOPLE.

"IT WOULD APPEAR FROM THE MANNER OF THEIR TRIAL AND FROM
THE CHARGES BEING MADE AGAINST THEM, THAT BOTH SCHARANSKY
AND GINSBURG ARE BEING TRIED IN LARGE PART FOR ACTIVITIES
ARISING FROM THEIR MONITORING OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT BY THE SOVIET UNION. AS ONE OF
THE 35 GOVERNMENTS WHICH SIGNED THIS FINAL ACT, THE IRISH
GOVERNMENT FEELS FULLY ENTITLED TO EXPRESS ITS OWN CONCERN
AND THAT OF THE IRISH PEOPLE ABOUT THESE TRIALS", SAID
MR. O'KENNEDY.

"EACH GOVERNMENT WHICH SIGNED THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT
ACCEPTED ALL ITS PROVISIONS INCLUDING THOSE RELATING TO
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HUMAN RIGHTS. IN THE VIEW OF THE IRISH GOVERNMENT EACH
GOVERNMENT THEREBY ACCEPTED A COMMITMENT TO ENSURE THAT
ITS OWN CITIZENS WOULD BE FREE TO EXERCISE THE RIGHTS
WHICH HAVE BEEN EXPLICITLY RECOGNISED AND ALSO THAT
THEY WOULD BE FREE FROM OFFICIAL INTIMIDATION, HARASSMENT
OR ARREST-OR INDEED FROM ANY ABRIDGEMENT OF THEIR RIGHTS-
MERELY BECAUSE THEY SEEK TO INVOKE THEM.

"THE PRESENT AND OTHER SIMILAR TRIALS, AND THE MANNER IN WHICH THE PROCEEDINGS HAVE BEEN TAKEN, WOULD SEEM TO BE QUITE CONTRARY TO THIS COMMITMENT FREELY ACCEPTED BY ALL 35 GOVERNMENTS, AND CONTRARY TO THE SPIRIT OF THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT. FURTHER, THESE MEASURES MAY THREATEN THE PROCESS OF DETENTE AND RELAXATION OF WORLD TENSIONS WHICH THE IRISH GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS ESSENTIAL IN THE INTERESTS OF WORLD PEACE.

"IN THE VIEW OF THE IRISH GOVERNMENT, DETENTE CANNOT BE A MATTER FOR GOVERNMENTS ONLY-IT MUST ALSO BE BASED ON CONCERN FOR INDIVIDUALS AND HAVE SOLID BASIS OF SUPPORT IN PUBLIC OPINION IN THE COUNTRIES CONCERNED. THERE IS EVERY DANGER THAT THE SUPPORT BY WORLD PUBLIC OPINION WHICH IS SO NECESSARY FOR DETENTE COULD BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY DEVELOPMENTS SUCH AS THE PRESENT TRIALS".
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